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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - IRAN ELECTIONS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - GUANTANAMO - IRAQ HOSTAGES EU ISSUES - EU ENLARGEMENT - TURKEY
PARIS - FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1. IRAN ELECTIONS](#)
- [2. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - GUANTANAMO - IRAQ HOSTAGES](#)
- [3. EU ISSUES - EU ENLARGEMENT - TURKEY](#)

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE ELECTIONS IN IRAN ARE ONE OF TODAY'S LEAD INTERNATIONAL STORIES. LE FIGARO EMPHASIZES ON ITS FRONT PAGE THE CENTRAL ROLE PLAYED BY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN THE CAMPAIGN: "IRAN VOTES FOR A THAWING WITH AMERICA." RELATED STORIES REPORT THAT IRANIAN YOUTH WANTS TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS AND THAT THE IRANIANS IN GENERAL WANT CHANGE. THE EDITORIAL IN LIBERATION, TITLED "NUANCES," NOTES "IT IS NOT EASY GOING FROM 'MOLLAH-CRACY' TO DEMOCRACY. (SEE PART C)

THE VISIT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALEZ TO BRUSSELS IS AMPLY REPORTED IN LE MONDE, WHICH INSISTS ON "THE CONCILIATORY TONE" OF ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES. (SEE PART C) THE REPORT IS TITLED "U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT EXCLUDE CLOSING DOWN GUANTANAMO." ANOTHER LE MONDE STORY IS DEVOTED TO THE TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON GUANTANAMO AND THE LATEST PENTAGON RESPONSE: "FACED WITH GROWING CRITICISM, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO BUILD COUNTER-FIRES. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PENTAGON HAS TRIED TO JUSTIFY ITS STANCE THROUGH A COMMUNIQUE REVEALING THAT INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED BY INTERROGATING MOHAMED AL-QAHTANI."

IN LE FIGARO, COMMENTATOR IVAN RIOUFOL WRITES ABOUT THE FRENCH MEDIA'S REPORTING ON THE RELEASE OF FLORENCE AUBENAS AND ITS SILENCE ABOUT THE HOSTAGE TAKERS AND THEIR PRACTICES. RIOUFOL RECALLS THAT THE FRENCH MEDIA WAS LES CIRCUMSPECT WHEN REPORTING ON ABU-GHARAIB OR GUANTANAMO. (SEE PART C)

THE SECOND MAJOR FRONT-PAGE STORY CONCERNED THE EU SUMMIT AND PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S STANCE ABOUT EU ENLARGEMENT. LE FIGARO HEADLINES: "TURKEY: CHIRAC'S CHANGE OF COURSE." REPORTS NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT MENTION TURKEY BY NAME, THE FRENCH PRESIDENT IS CALLING FOR A REASSESSMENT OF TURKEY'S EU MEMBERSHIP. (SEE PART C)

THE ECONOMIC PRESS NOTES THAT AIRBUS YESTERDAY PASSED BOEING IN TERMS OF FIRM AIRCRAFT ORDERS, REGISTERING A TOTAL OF 300 ORDERS AGAINST THE 148 REGISTERED BY BOEING.

LE FIGARO CARRIES A SMALL ITEM CONFIRMING THAT THE U.S. HAS POSTPONED THE DEADLINE FOR BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS TO OCTOBER [2006](#).

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

IRAN ELECTIONS

"BUSH'S AMERICA AT THE HEART OF IRANIAN CAMPAIGN" GEORGES MALBRUNOT IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO 906/17): "THE 'GREAT SATAN' HAS MANAGED TO IMPOSE ITSELF IN IRANIAN'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. THREE THIRDS OF IRANIANS, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS POLLS, ARE FAVORABLE TO A DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. AND IN THEIR EYES THE BEST CANDIDATE TO RE-ESTABLISH THOSE TIES IS RAFSANDJANI. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE WEST, RAFSANDJANI WAS FINALLY ABLE TO CONVINCE KHAMENEI OF THE NEED TO TALK WITH THE EUROPEANS. AND IF HE IS ELECTED HE CAN CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE HIM ON IRANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEANS, THE IRANIANS ARE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE AMERICANS. SAYS A DIPLOMAT: 'WHAT THEY WANT IS U.S. TECHNOLOGY. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE EUROPEANS CANNOT DELIVER AND THAT IRAN REJECTS THE SLIGHTEST GESTURE IN FAVOR OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE AMERICANS.' BUT MANY EXPERTS FEEL THAT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE U.S. CAN ONLY BE OF A 'TACTICAL' NATURE. 'FOR BUSH, THE PRIORITY IS FOR IRAN TO EXERCISE ITS MODERATING INFLUENCE ON IRAQ.'"

"NUANCES"

PATRICK SABATIER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/17): "IT IS NOT EASY TO GO FROM 'MOLLAH-CRACY' TO DEMOCRACY. MANY WILL

BOYCOTT THE ELECTION. BUT THE ELECTION CAN STILL MARK A TURNING POINT. THE RETURN TO MODERN METHODS OF CAMPAIGNING. IS ONE SIGN AMONG OTHERS THAT A DEEP AND IRREVERSIBLE MUTATION IS OCCURRING IN IRANIAN SOCIETY. THIS SPECTACULAR MUTATION OF IRAN IS DUE TO ONE REASON ONLY: ITS YOUNG PEOPLE. WHICH HAS EYES ONLY FOR THE WEST. IF THE MULLAHS WANT TO SAVE THEIR TURBANS, THEY WILL HAVE TO OPEN THEMSELVES TO THE WORLD, INCLUDING TO THE GREAT AMERICAN SATAN AND ITS LITTLE EUROPEAN IMPS. IN IRAN, IT MAY BE ONLY A MATTER OF NUANCE BETWEEN 'REFORMERS' AND 'CONSERVATIVES,' BUT THE NUANCE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE."

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - GUANTANAMO - IRAQ HOSTAGES

"THE FORGOTTEN JAILERS"

IVAN RIOUFOUL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/17): "THE MEDIA'S REFUSAL TO CARRY JUDGMENT OVER THE HOSTAGE TAKERS (IN IRAQ) IS NOT WITHOUT MEANING. THE SAME MEDIA WAS QUICK TO DENOUNCE THE AMERICAN HUMILIATIONS IMPOSED AT ABU GHARAIB. DID HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS CRITICIZE THE CONDITIONS OF DETENTION OF AUBENAS AND HANOUN? THIS SILENCE GOES HAND IN HAND WITH FRANCE'S RETICENCE TO TAKE THE REAL MEASURE OF ISLAMIC TERRORISM, WHICH IS TRYING TO STOP THE TIMID PROGRESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE RECENT CARNAGE OF IRAQI CIVILIANS HAS AWAKENED NO EMOTION IN OUR MORALISTS. THEY PREFER TO CALL THESE ACTS 'ACTS OF RESISTANCE.' THIS TYPE OF ATTITUDE IS ALREADY A FORM OF CAPITULATION IN THE FACE OF THIS NEW TOTALITARIANISM AND ITS JIHAD LAUNCHED SINCE 9/11. WITH THE PRETEXT OF NOT WANTING TO HURT THE SENSIBILITY OF THE JAILERS, THE MEDIA IS GIVING THE IMPRESSION IT IS EXCUSING THEIR IDEOLOGY AND THEIR PRACTICES OR AT LEAST GRANTING THEM EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE NAME OF THEIR FIGHT AGAINST 'THE AMERICAN OCCUPIER.' THIS SURRENDER IS ALREADY A FORM OF VICTORY FOR ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM."

"ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT PRECLUDE CLOSING GUANTANAMO" JEAN-PIERRE STOOBANTS IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (06/17): "'WE WANT TO LISTEN TO OUR FRIENDS AND OUR ALLIES' SAID ALBERTO GONZALEZ IN BRUSSELS. 'WE CONTINUE TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION' (IN GUANTANAMO) HE ADDED, AND DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING THE CAMP 'ONE DAY.' EVERYONE IN BRUSSELS PRAISED THE POSITIVE BALANCE SHEET OF EU-U.S. COOPERATION SINCE 9/11, EVEN IF EVERYONE NOTED THAT GUANTANAMO WAS ONE OF THE MAIN OBSTACLES TO A FULL ANTI-TERRORIST COOPERATION. THE GENERAL TONE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO PRAISED THE 'EXCELLENT COOPERATION' BETWEEN THE EU-25 AND THE U.S., WAS CONCILIATORY. ABOUT FRANCE, HE ALSO PRAISED THE 'REMARKABLE LEVEL OF COOPERATION, IN SPITE OF WHAT SOME MAY THINK.'"

EU ISSUES - EU ENLARGEMENT - TURKEY

"TURKEY: CHIRAC'S CHANGE OF COURSE"

PHILIPPE GOUILLAUD IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/17): "YESTERDAY PRESIDENT CHIRAC PUT IN QUESTION EUROPE'S CONTINUED EXPANSION 'WITHOUT THE PROPER INSTITUTIONS TO ALLOW AN EXPANDED EU TO FUNCTION PROPERLY.' WITHOUT HAVING MENTIONED TURKEY, THE FRENCH PRESIDENT INSISTED THAT THE 'EU CONSTITUTION WAS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT AS BEING INDISPENSABLE TO ALLOW THE EXPANDED EU TO FUNCTION PROPERLY.' YET CHIRAC WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS OF TURKEY'S EU MEMBERSHIP, BRAVING HIS OWN PARTY AND HIS PUBLIC OPINION. CHIRAC AND HIS PM HAVE DRAWN THE LESSON FROM THE MAY 29 REFERENDUM AND THE MESSAGE THAT THEIR VOTERS ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO TURKEY'S MEMBERSHIP." WOLFF